

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:179
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
MISUSE OF DEFENCE PLANES
V. SAROJA;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of blatant misuse of defence aircraft for non-official purposes by many persons including senior army and airforce officers;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases of misuse recorded during each of the last three years alongwith the names of officers involved therein and the action taken against them;
- (c) the money spent on such-non-official trips;
- (d) the steps taken to recover such amount from the concerned officers and to ensure that defence aircraft are not misused; and
- (e) the details of air-crash met by Chetak Helicopter near Vaisno Devi shrine and the outcome of the inquiry held in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) & (b): Senior Service Officers are provided airlift facility, in accordance with the existing instructions, governing use of defence aircraft and no case of misuse of the facility has come to light.
- (c) & (d): Does not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.
- (e) A Chetak helicopter of the Indian Army crashed near Vaishno Devi Shrine. A formal Court of Inquiry to investigate into all aspects of the accident has been ordered by the Army Hqrs. Findings are awaited.